

Ravens' Lewis Faces Double Murder Rap

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Ray Lewis of the Baltimore Ravens was supposed to be in Hawaii this week, preparing for his third straight Pro Bowl.

Instead, the star linebacker is in prison clothes, the second NFL player charged with murder in less than a month. Lewis is accused of stabbing two people to death shortly after Sunday night's Super Bowl.

Lewis, the league's leading tackler this season, was charged after police spent most of the day investigating the slayings, which happened in Atlanta's trendy Buckhead neighborhood about 4 a.m. Monday.

Wearing a red prison uniform and with his hands shackled in front of him, Lewis is in court today for a preliminary hearing on the charges. The hearing was postponed until Feb. 24 at the request of prosecutor Larry Gardner, who said he needed more time to confer with witnesses and police. Lewis was held without bail.

His lawyer, Max Richardson Jr., said Lewis is innocent. "We're taking the position that he was in the wrong place at the wrong time," Richardson said outside the courtroom. "From what I've gathered from law enforcement officers, they know Ray didn't kill these unfortunate victims. ... They don't know where the other two men who were involved are, so they arrested Ray."

He did not identify the other men. Before his arrest, Lewis told a Baltimore newspaper he was questioned by police but cleared of any wrongdoing. "I cooperated fully," Lewis told The Sun. "As for the situation, I have no comment."

Two men were stabbed during a fight that broke out about 200 yards away after a party at the Cobalt lounge. Witnesses said six men fought and argued with the two victims before fleeing in a black stretch limousine, firing at

least five gunshots as they drove away. The 24-year-old player was the only suspect identified by police.

The stabbing victims were identified as Jacinth Baker, 21, and Richard Lollar, 24, both of suburban Decatur. One man died at the scene, the other at Grady Memorial Hospital.

Despite the report of shots, police said the preliminary investigation indicated both victims were stabbed to death. Ravens owner Art Modell told The Sun, "I don't believe he had anything to do with it. I'm going to give Ray the benefit of the doubt and defend him until something is proven otherwise."

Lewis, in Atlanta for an autographing session and to attend the Super Bowl, was to leave Monday for Honolulu, where the Pro Bowl will be played Sunday.

The Ravens said he changed his flight to Tuesday when he learned he was wanted for questioning. The team said it had not spoken with Lewis. "We respect the investigative and judicial processes that are taking place," club spokesman Kevin Byrne said. "We are monitoring all of this as best we can."

Lewis joins former Carolina Panthers receiver Rae Carruth as the only active NFL player to be charged with murder.

Prosecutors plan to seek the death penalty against Carruth, indicted Jan. 4 for first-degree murder after Chericia Adams died the previous month from wounds in a drive-by shooting.

Adams was pregnant with their son, who was born prematurely and survived. Carruth was released by the Panthers after Adams died.

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue commented on Friday on the rash of criminal charges against players.

"Can we separate ourselves from society? Of course not," Tagliabue said. "We can't predict what NFL players will do any more than we can predict students shooting other students or workers shooting fellow workers."

UNC Students Buddy Up for Kids

By ALICIA PETERS
Staff Writer

Once on campus, miles away from home, some UNC students find they miss the closeness that only family members can share.

These students found Big Buddy, a program partnering college students with children living in the Chapel Hill-Carboro area.

"I was missing my family, and I wanted to get involved with another family," said Claire Martin, a junior from Toronto.

The program was established through the Campus Y in order to match a child with a college student

who wants to help children.

Big Buddy gives children from diverse backgrounds a one-on-one situation that aims to stimulate educational and social growth for participants.

Caroline Roberson, a junior from Burlington, worked with children while in high school and discovered the program through a flier. She has been a volunteering since her freshman year.

Maria Runaldu, the Big Buddy co-chairwoman joined the program because she loved working with children.

"It's fun and kind of a good break from college life," Roberson said. The Big Buddy program involves

220 students. In order to become a volunteer for the program, each student submits an application, a letter of recommendation and goes through an interview process.

All the participating children are local residents recommended by their school guidance counselors.

Roberson's 8-year-old little buddy, Chris Gattis, is a fourth-grade student who lives in Chapel Hill.

Roberson and Gattis get together for three hours every week, while Runaldu spends about four hours with her little buddy.

One of the program requirements is that the big buddy spend at least two hours a week with the little buddy.

The buddies either work on schoolwork or participate in fun activities.

"He likes to go to hang out at University Mall, go to Umstead Park, work on homework, play the piano and eat at my sorority house," Roberson said.

Runaldu's activities with her little buddy fall along similar lines.

"We go on nature walks, do arts and crafts, I help him with homework if he has any, and I'm teaching him how to jump rope right now," said Runaldu, a junior from Chapel Hill.

Martin took 6-year-old James Bowman ice skating last week, which she said was his favorite activity.

Martin said though Bowman was an only child, most children in the program have several siblings.

Roberson said the bond formed between her and Gattis made the time they spent together memorable.

"It was exciting to see him be excited about playing the piano, and also last Christmas, we made Christmas houses together," Roberson said.

Gattis said he enjoyed the time he spent with his big buddy and was glad to be a part of the program.

"I liked looking on the Internet and seeing a lot of neat things," Gattis said. "I get to do fun things."

The Big Buddy program is designed to provide role models for the children, even though the big buddies only spend a few hours with the children each week.

"It gives (Gattis) somebody besides family to look up to," Roberson said. "He has mentioned that his homework is easier, and he knows that someone cares."

Roberson said the Big Buddy program helps form a special bond between the big buddies and little buddies, as well as giving her an opportunity to contribute to the community.

The volunteers said they found the program also gave them something back.

Runaldu said, "I gained a friend, I get to learn a lot about children, and I became part of his family."

The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu.



Junior Caroline Roberson watches her "Campus Buddy" Chris Gattis play the piano. The Campus Y program matches children with students.

Train Derails, Sparks Chemical Fire

Associated Press

BETHEL — Authorities evacuated parts of Pitt and Martin counties Tuesday after a CSX freight train carrying chemicals derailed and two cars caught fire, spewing a plume of acrid, black smoke.

Fifteen cars from the 38-car train left the track and tumbled into Grindle Creek about 10:45 a.m., five miles east of this Pitt County community, said Adam Hollingsworth, a CSX spokesman in Jacksonville, Fla.

The two cars that caught fire con-

tained terephthalic acid, a granular crystal used to make synthetic materials, Hollingsworth said. He said the acid was not classified as a hazardous material.

Hollingsworth said liquid ethylene glycol, the chemical in antifreeze, leaked from another car into Grindle Creek, which is in a wetlands area.

No injuries were reported, but dense smoke from the burning wreckage compelled officials to evacuate the sparsely populated area around the crash site.

"The evacuation zone was established to minimize any overexposure to smoke by residents," Hollingsworth

said. Pitt County spokesman Arlen Holt described the evacuation area as a 10-mile area lapping into Martin County. He said the evacuation order may stand through the night.

Crews were trying to extinguish the fire so hazardous materials experts could remove the chemicals from the wrecked cars and evacuees could return home, Holt said. A state Forest Service helicopter dumped buckets of water on the blaze Tuesday afternoon, and CSX brought in a flatbed rail car to be used as a water-pumping platform, he said.

ANNOUNCING

The James Madison Memorial Fellowship

The James Madison Memorial Fellowship is a federally-endowed fellowship program designed to strengthen instruction about the U.S. Constitution at the secondary school level. Graduating seniors without teaching experience who intend to pursue a career in teaching American history or political science can receive funding for two years of master's level graduate study of the framing and history of the Constitution. Fellowships will provide up to \$24,000 in educational support over a two to five year period. Fellows must agree to teach full-time in a secondary school for no less than one year for a full year of fellowship support.

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Summer 2000 at TAXCO, MEXICO

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Students who wish to experience Mexican life, culture, and academics on a rural estate in a colonial city can study in **Taxco, Mexico** for a summer. This program is offered by UNC-CH through the Centro de Enseñanza para Extranjeros (CEPE) of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

Eligibility: Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible for the program, which is open to both UNC-CH and non-UNC students with a 2.5 GPA or better. There is no language prerequisite, but at least two semesters of college-level Spanish or the equivalent is recommended.

Summer 2000 students will be accompanied by Amy McNichols, a Ph.D. candidate in Latin American literature from the UNC-CH Department of Romance Languages & Literatures. While on-site, Ms. McNichols will advise and tutor students, as well as serve as the Resident Coordinator in Taxco during the program.

A group flight will be available, and the orientation will take place in Mexico City prior to the beginning of courses in Taxco.

The dates: The summer 2000 program runs from June 16 to August 4, 2000.

The cost: Total billed cost \$1,451.

For further information about this program: Please contact the Study Abroad Office in 12 Caldwell Hall, or the program leader, Amy McNichols, in 114 Dey Hall, or our web site at <http://study-abroad.unc.edu>.

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